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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 7801st meeting of the Security Council, held on 3 November 2016, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Mali", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council strongly condemns the repeated violations of the ceasefire arrangements by the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups in and around Kidal over the last months, which threaten the viability of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali. The Security Council urges the signatory armed groups to cease hostilities immediately, to strictly adhere to the ceasefire arrangements and to resume dialogue without delay for the implementation of the Agreement.

"The Security Council urges the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups to fully and sincerely maintain their commitments under the Agreement. The Security Council recalls its readiness to consider targeted sanctions against those who take actions to obstruct the implementation of the Agreement as well as those who resume hostilities and violate the ceasefire, as expressed in its resolution 2295 (2016).

"The Security Council acknowledges the steps taken by signatory parties over the last year to implement the Agreement, welcomes the progress towards establishing interim administrations in the north of Mali and expresses its deep concern over the persistent delays for the full implementation of the Agreement. The Security Council underscores the pressing need to deliver tangible and visible peace dividends to the population in the north and other parts of Mali in order to keep the momentum of the Agreement.

"The Security Council urges the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups to take urgent and concrete action to fully deliver on their obligations under the Agreement without further delay, in particular to deploy joint security patrols, to accomplish the process of establishing interim administrations in the north of Mali, to operationalize the commissions for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of armed combatants, and to accelerate the redeployment of the Malian Defense and Security Forces (MDSF) throughout the country within the framework of the Agreement.

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"The Security Council urges the Government of Mali to engage with the Secretary-General, through his Special Representative for Mali, to establish concrete benchmarks and timelines to assess the progress toward the full implementation of the Agreement and recalls its request to the Secretary-General to include them in his December 2016 report.

"The Security Council calls on members of the *Comité de suivi de l'Accord* and other relevant international partners to sustain their support to the implementation of the Agreement. The Security Council emphasizes the central role the SRSG should continue to play to support and oversee the implementation of the Agreement by the Government of Mali, the *Plateforme* and *Coordination* armed groups.

"The Security Council encourages bilateral and multilateral partners to increase their support to accelerate the redeployment of the Malian Defense and Security Forces, once reformed and reconstituted, to the north of Mali, particularly by providing relevant equipment and training, in coordination with the Government of Mali and MINUSMA and within the framework of the Agreement.

"The Security Council reiterates its concern over the expansion of terrorist and other criminal activities across Mali, and, in particular, into central and southern Mali, as well as the intensification of intercommunal violence in the Centre of Mali. The Security Council emphasizes that the Malian authorities have primary responsibility for the provision of stability and security throughout the territory of Mali.

"The Security Council strongly condemns the continuing attacks, including terrorist attacks, against the Malian defense and security forces, MINUSMA and the French forces. The Security Council underlines the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice. The Security Council urges the Government of Mali to take measures to ensure that those responsible for these attacks are held accountable.

"The Security Council acknowledges the significant capability gaps within MINUSMA and underlines its request to the Secretary-General to expeditiously identify options and take all appropriate additional measures to enable MINUSMA to fully implement its mandate and to ensure the safety and security of its personnel. The Security Council urges Member States to urgently provide adequate capabilities to MINUSMA, in particular aviation and transportation capabilities, to fill in these gaps.

"The Security Council reiterates its serious concern over the insecurity which hinders humanitarian access, condemns attacks against humanitarian personnel, and emphasizes the need for all parties to respect the principles of humanitarian assistance (humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence) in order to ensure the continued provision of humanitarian assistance. The Security Council also emphasizes the need for all parties to ensure the safety and protection of civilians receiving assistance and the security of humanitarian personnel operating in Mali.

"The Security Council calls on Member States in the region, notably through the G5 Sahel and the African Union Nouakchott Process, to advance their cooperation with MINUSMA in order to strengthen regional security and facilitate the implementation of its mandate."